

Claims

1. An effects application system comprising:
an effects source for applying an effect onto an image and
a translucent masking tool which defines a masked portion that prevents the
effects source from applying the effect onto the masked portion of the image.
2. The effects application system according to Claim 1 wherein the translucent
masking tool has a customizable shape.
3. The effects application system according to Claim 1 wherein the translucent
masking tool is movable relative to the image.
4. The effects application system according to Claim 1 wherein the translucent
masking tool simulates a fixed edge.
5. The effects application system according to Claim 1 wherein the masked portion
of the image is denoted by cross-hatching while the masked portion of the image
is still viewable by a user.
6. The effects application system according to Claim 1 wherein the masked portion
of the image is denoted by shading while the masked portion of the image is still
viewable by a user.

7. A method of masking comprising:

positioning a masking tool over a masked portion of an image;

applying an effect onto the image outside the masked portion; and

dynamically moving the masking tool while applying the effect wherein the masked portion changes as the masking tool is dynamically moved.

8. The method according to Claim 7 further comprising customizing a shape of the masking tool.

9. The method according to Claim 7 wherein the masking tool is translucent.

10. The method according to Claim 7 wherein the masked portion of the image is viewable to a user.

11. The method according to Claim 7 wherein the masked portion of the image is shaded.

12. The method according to Claim 7 wherein dynamically moving the masking tool and applying the effect occur simultaneously.

13. The method according to Claim 7 further comprising applying multiple masking tools onto the image.